

should be concerned about violating WTO commitments. They might think that this is simply limited to agriculture or specific crops with little impact on our overall economy. Others might even suggest that we are better off building up more barriers to trade; that this farm bill is about American farmers not farmers in Brazil or elsewhere. However, if Senators look further down the line they will see that our WTO violations could cost the United States billions in revenue, intellectual property, and lost trade opportunities. Failure to move toward compliance will invite retaliatory tariffs that legally can be directed at any U.S. industry.

It could be argued that flaunting these commitments would be justified in order to save the U.S. farming sector from sure ruin. However, that would ignore the realities of our current farm economy and the actual structure of these farm programs. Thanks to strong foreign and domestic demand, net farm income for 2007 was nearly \$89 billion, up \$30 billion from 2006 and \$30 billion above the average for the previous 10 years, setting a new farm income record. Estimates for 2008 project net farm income to top \$92 billion. As a result, average farm household income is projected to be almost \$89,000 in 2008, up 9 percent from 2006, and well above average U.S. household income of \$67,000.

We need a new farm bill that ensures a stable farm economy and a healthy food supply. I do not believe our Nation is best served by this farm bill that continues to make payments that defy common sense, snubs our trading partners, and balloons taxpayer spending. Last year I joined Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and others in offering a farm bill alternative that received 37 votes on the Senate floor. It would have provided all farmers with a more equitable "safety net," as well as greater investment in conservation, rural energy projects, and nutrition.

Under the proposal, farmers, for the first time, would receive—at no cost to them—either expanded county-based crop insurance policies that would cover 85 percent of expected crop revenue, or 80 percent of a farm's five year average adjusted gross revenue. These subsidized insurance tools already exist, but our reforms would have made them more effective and universally used, while controlling administrative costs. Farmers would also be able to purchase insurance to cover the remainder of their revenue and yields. In addition, the amendment would have created optional risk management accounts that would be available to every farmer and rancher and provide incentives for them to put away money in good years to cover lean years. Our program would be available to all farmers in the country—regardless of products—and not just a select few corn, soybean, wheat, rice, and cotton farmers.

Using the savings from this approach could fund important expansion in con-

servation, nutrition, energy, and research programs. In fact, the approach made more significant investments within the Federal budget in these areas than the farm bill before us and even found savings to help pay down our Nation's budget deficit, which this year is approaching \$400 billion.

I will vote against the farm bill conference report and support a presidential veto of the bill. I further suggest that the Lugar-Lautenberg FRESH Act remains a reform option, a constructive alternative that will save taxpayers billions, provide a generous safety net, and allow for funding of farm, nutrition, bioenergy, conservation, and rural development programs without budget-breaking gimmicks.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, every morning thousands of Americans wake up to a bowl of Wheaties, the vast majority of whom have never asked where their Wheaties come from. I submit to you that the farm bill is the primary factor responsible for providing America with safe, healthy, and affordable food and fiber, including Wheaties. What we are debating today is of paramount importance to each and every American.

If you look at the title of this bill, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, you will not see the word agriculture. This begs the question, What does this bill really mean to agriculture and the American farmer and rancher?

By way of example, I have been contacted by the Dairy Producers of New Mexico which told me that the farm bill does not, on the whole, help rural New Mexico. Rather its policies have short-term and long-term implications that can harm my State. The primary source of economic activity in rural New Mexico today is dairy farming. There are approximately 172 dairy farms with approximately 4,221 direct employees and 17,150 indirect employees. These local operations contribute \$1.02 billion direct dollars to the economy and \$2.6 billion indirect dollars to the economy. The farm bill undermines the economic stability that the dairy industry plays a large role in creating.

The dairy title subsidizes dairy farmers who compete with New Mexico dairymen. Under the farm bill, the "MILC" program not only funds milk produced in other regions of the country, at rates higher than New Mexico, it increases those payments. The new bill ensures that the amount of those payments will rise when feed prices go up. This is despite the fact that virtually all of the grain used by producers outside New Mexico is raised by them and they are insulated from much of that price inflation. New Mexico's farmers purchase their feed but receive only partial payments. In short, the Dairy Price Support Program provides no support at all.

I applaud the efforts that were made in this bill to address nutrition concerns, provide for broader flexibility for specialty crop growers, and assist

rural communities. However, it does not appear to me that enough progress has been made toward conservation programs and other reform initiatives. Moreover, while the bill does continue the peanut handling benefits it does not continue the peanut storage provisions contained in the 2002 farm bill. This alone will cost New Mexico peanut growers up to an additional \$50 to \$60 per ton, which represents at least \$74 million to peanut producers in my State. I am not convinced that this is the best we can do for the people who feed our Nation and I am left wondering if this farm bill is already out of date before it is even law.

The Congressional Budget Office tells us that this bill will cost \$307 billion over the next 5 years and almost double that figure over 10 years, which is cause for concern in and of itself.

Ultimately, I am unwilling to support a measure that is counterproductive to the most important agriculture component in New Mexico, our dairy industry. Instead of enacting policies that will encourage stability and continued growth of dairies in States like New Mexico, the conference report before us today says our farm policy should be to erect unreasonable hurdles and obstacles for many dairies. I intend to vote against this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I certify that the information required by Senate rule XLIV, related to congressionally directed spending, has been identified in the conference report to accompany the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, numbered H.R. 2419, filed on May 12, 2008, and that the required information has been available on a publicly accessible congressional Web site at least 48 hours before a vote on the pending conference report.

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON.

RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 307 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation, including one or more bills and amendments, that reauthorizes the 2002 farm bill or similar or related programs, provides for revenue changes, or any combination thereof. Section 307 authorizes the revisions provided that certain conditions are met, including that amounts provided in the legislation for the above purposes not exceed \$20 billion over the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 and that the legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

On November 5, 2007, I filed a reserve fund adjustment pursuant to section 307 for an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2419. That legislation passed the Senate on December 14, 2007. The Senate is considering the conference report to accompany H.R. 2419,

the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. I find that the conference report also satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for the farm bill, including being fully paid for over both the five and 10-year time periods. Therefore, pursuant to section 307, I am amending the reserve fund adjustment made on November 5, 2007, and further revising the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to reflect the final estimate for the completed farm bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 307 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FARM BILL

(In billions of dollars)

Section 101	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,016.793
FY 2009	2,114.754
FY 2010	2,170.343
FY 2011	2,351.046
FY 2012	2,493.878
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-34.003
FY 2009	7.828
FY 2010	6.622
FY 2011	-43.504
FY 2012	-103.218
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,501.726
FY 2009	2,520.890
FY 2010	2,573.040
FY 2011	2,688.764
FY 2012	2,720.897
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007	2,294.862
FY 2008	2,473.063
FY 2009	2,569.024
FY 2010	2,601.423
FY 2011	2,695.166
FY 2012	2,702.695

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(In millions of dollars)

Current Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	76,881
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	71,049
Adjustments	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	-1,500
FY 2008 Outlays	-976
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	401
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	-483
Revised Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	
FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	15,588
FY 2008 Outlays	13,653
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority	77,282
FY 2008–2012 Outlays	70,566

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, over the past week, the Jewish people and their friends around the world have celebrated the historic and proud occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. I rise to join my colleagues in again congratulating and honoring the Israeli people in reaching this monumental milestone, and to recognize the enduring and unwavering relationship between our two countries.

During my tenure in public service, it has truly been an honor to consistently stand with Israel. Throughout my 29 years in Congress—begun the same year, 1979, when I attended the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty at the White House—I have fought for Israel's absolute right to exist in peace, and I have understood Israel's enduring value as a strategic ally to America. And for twice as long as I have been privileged to help enhance this relationship in Congress, Israel has proven itself time and again not only to be a true ally of the United States in terms of our shared security interests, but also in terms of upholding democratic ideals.

In its first 60 years, the modern State of Israel has proven itself to be a bastion of democracy in a region rife with authoritarianism. Israel is the only country in the Middle East whose citizens enjoy the right to vote, speak, and pray freely. As notable as it is that Israel has successfully brought these critical elements of western-style democracy to the region, it is even more remarkable that it has been able to guarantee these freedoms while under constant threat from terrorists and countries along its borders. In this way, Israel has proven itself to be a true democracy—a paragon of political openness and liberty.

As the first woman to serve in both houses of a State legislature and both Houses of the U.S. Congress, I regard Israel's inclusion and empowerment of women in politics as an especially inspiring feature of its democratic triumph. Highlighted by the election of Golda Meir as Prime Minister in 1969, Israeli women played as central a role in the founding and flourishing of the State of Israel as their male counterparts. Meir's legacy is proudly continued today by countless Israeli women in top government positions in Israel, including Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik, and Justice Dorit Beinisch, who serves as the President, or Chief Justice, of the Supreme Court.

Again, Israel's proud record of outstanding participation by women in the governance of their country stands in stark contrast to the disenfranchising of women from public life elsewhere in the Middle East. And while many of its neighbors suffer from a high illiteracy rate among women, Israel has achieved educational parity for men and women, with 57 percent of all academic degrees in the country being earned by women.

By advancing the causes of political inclusiveness and freedom, the State of Israel has done more than provide a vibrant homeland for the Jewish people, it has emerged a beacon of modernity and hope in an ancient and still troubled region. And there should be no doubt that the people and Government of United States continue to stand alongside Israel as it seeks peace even as it endures daily rocket attacks against its citizens and vile, hate-filled rhetoric from radical and dangerous strongmen who speak of its destruction. In supporting Israel against these threats, we support the dignity of all peoples against those who would prefer the oppressions of humanity's past to the promise of its future.

And so, on the occasion of its 60th anniversary, I rise not only to commend the State of Israel and its people, but also to thank them, for their friendship, for their bravery, and for their defense of that which is righteous in the world.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Israel's founding.

On May 14, 1948, members of the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum to approve the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. The declaration stated, in part, "The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations." These were the principles Israel was founded on, and these same principles guide it today.

I have visited Israel 25 times since taking office in 1981. Under the able leadership of the numerous Israeli leaders whom I have come to know over that period, Israel has remained a bastion of democracy in the Middle East.

According to the Freedom House's "Freedom in the World 2008" report, Israel is the only free country in the Middle East. Evidence of Israel's strong democratic traditions is seen in the inquisitiveness of its press: the Freedom